

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious topsheet;
a liquid impervious backsheet; and
an absorbent member positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet, said absorbent member having a thickness dimension, a first surface being oriented towards said topsheet and an opposed second surface being oriented towards said backsheet, said second surface being separated from said first surface by said thickness dimension,

said absorbent member comprises at least one film-like region of particles of chitosan material, said particles having a particle size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of not more than about 300 μm .
2. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said film-like region is positioned on said first and/or second surface of said absorbent member.
3. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the surface area coverage of chitosan material within said film-like region of particles of chitosan material on said surface of said absorbent member is at least about 75% of the total surface of said film-like region.
4. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 3, wherein the surface area coverage of chitosan material within said film-like region of particles of chitosan material on said surface of said absorbent member is about 100% of the total surface of said film-like region.
5. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said article further comprises an additional absorbent member positioned between said film-like region and said backsheet and/or said topsheet.

6. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein said film-like region comprises chitosan particles having a particle size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of from about 10 nm to about 300 μm .
7. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said chitosan material has a degree of deacetylation of more than about 70%.
8. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said chitosan material comprises at least one salt of chitosan, such as chitosonium pyrrolidone carboxylate and/or chitosonium lactate.
9. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member comprises a structure with internal void space, preferably a dry laid hydrophilic fibrous web.
10. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein said film-like region comprises particles of chitosan material in an amount of about 0.1 to about 200 g per square meter of said absorbent member.
11. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of ~~claims 2 or 3~~ claim 2, wherein at least one of said surfaces of said absorbent member is covered by at least about 40% of the total surface area of said surface with said film-like regions comprising particles of chitosan material.
12. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 11, wherein at least one of said surfaces of said absorbent member is covered by about 100% of the total surface area of said surface with said film-like regions comprising particles of chitosan material.
13. (Original) Process for making an absorbent member, said process comprising the steps of:
 - (a) forming a precursor web having a first and a second surface, said second surface being approximately aligned opposite to said first surface, and
 - (b) applying during process step (a) onto at least one surface of said precursor web a solution or dispersion comprising a chitosan material, and/or
 - (b') applying after process step (a) onto at least one surface of said precursor web a solution or dispersion comprising a chitosan material, and

- (c) drying said precursor web, whereby forming at least one film-like region comprising particles of chitosan material on said surface of said precursor web on which said solution or dispersion of chitosan material was applied in steps (b) and/or (b'),
- said solution or dispersion being applied onto said precursor web in the form of a spray of droplets, said droplets having a droplet size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of not more than about 1500 μm .
14. (Original) The process of claim 13, wherein the surface area coverage of chitosan material within said film-like region of particles of chitosan material on said surface of said precursor web is at least about 75% of the total surface of said film-like region.
15. (Original) The process of claim 13, wherein step (b) is not carried out, said process comprising the additional steps of:
- (a') applying latex onto at least one surface of said precursor web, and
- (a'') drying said precursor web, wherein steps (a') and (a'') are carried out after said step (a) and before said step (b').
16. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~claims 13, 14 or 15~~ claim 13, comprising the additional step of:
- (d) second web formation process, wherein step (d) is carried out after said step (c).
17. (Original) The process of claim 13, wherein said precursor web comprises a structure with internal void space, preferably a dry laid hydrophilic fibrous web.
18. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~claims 13, 14 or 15~~ claim 13, wherein said absorbent member comprises after step (c) particles of chitosan material having a particle size distribution with a mean diameter $D(v,0.9)$ of from about 10 nm to about 300 μm .
- 19-21. (Canceled)
22. (Original) The process of claim 13, wherein said solution or dispersion of chitosan material is an aqueous solution or dispersion, comprising from about 0.1 to about 40% by weight of said chitosan material.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The process of claim 13, wherein said solution or dispersion of chitosan material is applied in an amount of about 1 to about 1000 ml of said solution or dispersion of chitosan material per square meter of said precursor web.

25-31. (Canceled)